

# Family care eases a little of single mothers' stress

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## Family care eases a little of single mothers' stress

**By Miranda Bradley**

*Children at Heart Ministries*

ROUND ROCK—More than volleyballs were served in the gym at [First Baptist Church of Round Rock](#) recently.

Single mothers involved in the [Texas Baptist Children's Home](#) family care program enjoyed baked potato soup, salad and homemade cookies prepared by a professional chef in the church's new First Life Center—a far cry from their typical Monday-night meal of ham-and-cheese sandwiches.

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Professional  
chef  
Theresa  
Twyeffort  
(foreground)  
is assisted  
by her  
friend Lea  
Wilder as  
they  
prepare a  
meal for  
moms in  
Texas  
Baptist  
Children's  
Home's  
family care  
program.

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# âTis the season for the Yuletide battles

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# 'Tis the season for the Yuletide battles

**By Chansin Bird**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Midway through November, people already are fighting about Christmas.

Several Christian groups are banding together again to combat what they call the “War on Christmas.” Their targets—retailers who refuse to say “Merry Christmas,” schools that ban Christmas carols and Scrooge-like secularists who they say want to take Christ out of Christmas.

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## **CityReach/Lift Up America alliance feeds hungry families**

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FC Dallas  
soccer  
players  
help  
distribute  
corporate  
donations  
through  
BGCT City  
Reach  
partnership  
with Lift  
Up  
America to  
help  
provide  
food and  
resources  
for needy  
people.

## **CityReach/Lift Up America alliance feeds hungry families**

**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

FRISCO—Waiting in a long line failed to faze Joe Patterson, pastor of Greater New Zion Baptist Church in Dallas. He knew he would soon receive more than 1,000 pounds of chicken as part of the Baptist General

Convention of Texas [City Reach 2006](#).

Visiting with other Baptist pastors and FC Dallas soccer team players fresh from the playoffs, Patterson was pleased to participate in the BGCT City Reach Lift Up America alliance to help others.

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## Moms fed up with sexpot dolls

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## Moms fed up with sexpot dolls

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

DALLAS (ABP)—American mothers are fed up with overly sexy dolls, according to a recent report from [Synovate](#), a market-research firm.

The study, which surveyed 1,010 mothers with daughters 4 to 9 years old, found 85 percent of mothers are “tired of the sexpot dolls and characters” in stores. Nine out of 10 moms in the study said they wish young girls walking the toy-store aisles could find more positive role models on sale.

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# **DOWN HOME: Teenagers don't live here anymore**

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## **DOWN HOME: Teenagers don't live here anymore**

You never know when lightning will strike, thunder will clap and you'll realize nothing will ever be the same again.

This happened in church the other day.

(I know; novel idea: Life-changing revelation in a Sunday-morning worship service.)

Actually, it happened while our pastor made the announcements.

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## **EDITORIAL: Go Away, Walk Away & the big picture**

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# EDITORIAL:

## Go Away, Walk Away & the big picture

Many Texas Baptists have responded to [the church starting scandal](#) in the Rio Grande Valley in either of two ways. Some just want it to go away. Others think they might just walk away.

The Go Away and the Walk Away positions are understandable. But they're too narrow and will not lead the Baptist General Convention of Texas where God wants us to go.



Most people can relate to the folks who want this problem to just Go Away. Many Christians instinctively turn away from scandal and shy away from conflict. They realize scandal and conflict divert unbelievers from Christ, dissipate the enthusiasm of immature Christians and even discourage mature Christians. So, they believe the best plan is to pretend these difficulties don't exist, or, failing that, to quit talking about them as quickly as possible. Several inherent weaknesses accompany this approach:

- **Just because you won't name it doesn't mean it's not there.** This is the "elephant in the room" syndrome. Relationships strain and integrity frays when people in a community—family, church or convention—ignore the obvious. As a family grows increasingly sick and dysfunctional because nobody will talk about Uncle John's alcoholism, a convention will decline if

it ignores a moral problem, such as deception and waste of missions money.

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# Young filmmaker issues casting call

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## Young filmmaker issues casting call

**By George Henson**

*Staff Writer*

BROWNWOOD—Always wanted to see your face on the silver screen but probably won't make it to Hollywood?

If a casting call in Brownwood seems more within your travel budget, a Howard Payne University student has a project that might be worth consideration.

Brandon Powell
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# Evangelicals distance themselves from Haggard scandal

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## Evangelicals distance themselves from Haggard scandal

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—As Ted Haggard expressed sorrow for being a “deceiver and a liar,” leaders of the [National Association of Evangelicals](#) distanced their organization from the man who led it three years.

“Most people—I’m not sure everyone—separate this tragedy from NAE. They consider it a tragedy of a man, a pastor and not an NAE scandal. That’s the good news,” said Richard Cizik, vice president for governmental relations of the Washington-based association.

Ted Haggard
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# Hispanic Convocation stresses leadership

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## Hispanic Convocation stresses leadership

**By Orville Scott**

*Special to the Baptist Standard*

SPICEWOOD—More than 500 participants at the 2006 Convocation of Varones Bautistas at Highland Lakes Camp and Conference Center were challenged to be “prayer warriors” for Christ and leaders for God in their families and churches

Convocation Coordinator Eli Rodriguez of Dallas noted five and 10 people were in the prayer room, praying for each speaker as he or she spoke, and he was convinced it had a clear impact on their messages.

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## Inner-city Houston churches

# seek community transformation

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Pastor Elmo Johnson of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church in Houston secured partnerships with Texas Southern University and Rice University to provide tutors for these students.

## Inner-city Houston churches seek community transformation

**By Barbara Bedrick**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

HOUSTON—Some people view Elmo Johnson as a mover and a shaker—an entrepreneur for God who is leading his church to transform lives for God in the inner city.

Johnson, a former Houston Baptist University baseball player, is pastor of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church. He sees himself as a faithful member of God's team, and he faces far more pressure on this playing field than on any baseball diamond where he competed, because now he's competing for lives.

**See a slideshow  
of Johnson's  
ministry [here](#).**

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## **Islamic groups denounce Baptist's 'takeover' remark**

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## **Islamic groups denounce Baptist's 'takeover' remark**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. (ABP)—Leaders from a prominent American Muslim group have denounced reported comments by the [Missouri Baptist Convention](#)'s executive director claiming "Islam has a strategic plan" to take over the United States.

Ibrahim Hooper, communications director for the Washington-based [Council on American-Islamic Relations](#), said David Clippard's assertions "are too bizarre to even comment on."

	
David Clippard	Ibrahim Hooper

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# Mentally challenged minister through Meals on Wheels

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## Mentally challenged minister through Meals on Wheels

**By Craig Bird**

*Baptist Child & Family Services*

TYLER—Senior adults in the Tyler area recognize residents of [Breckenridge Village](#)—a [Baptist Child & Family Services](#) facility for mentally handicapped adults—as more than recipients of ministry. They know them as welcome visitors who deliver Meals on Wheels to their homes.

“Many people think of our residents as people who only receive care, but the concept behind Breckenridge Village is to provide the opportunity for them to live as full a life as possible,” Executive Director Charles Dodson said. “That includes having the opportunity to be servants, to do things to help others.”

A  
Breckenridge  
Village  
resident  
delivers a  
meal to a  
senior adult in  
Tyler. (Photo  
by Craig Bird)